

**Remarks of Mayor Paul Frain
Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service
City Hall
Friday, May 17, 2013
10:00 am**

Chief Goldsmith, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the citizens of Norfolk and members of City Council, it's an honor for me to join you once again for this annual observance of Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day, a time set aside each year to honor and remember Norfolk police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

I'd like to acknowledge the presence here today of members of the Norfolk Police Department, Sheriff McCabe and representatives of his office, along with representatives from our federal, state, military, and university law enforcement agencies. Thank you for being here.

This annual ceremony is a solemn reminder of the real and ever present danger our police officers face each time they go on duty, and it is an opportunity for our community to come face-to-face with the sometimes tragic reality of police work.

We understand the stress of police work...we understand the hazards that go hand-in-hand with what our law enforcement officers do, and there should be no doubt in anyone's mind that we are proud of the men and women who serve in the Norfolk Police Department and all law enforcement agencies.

We have the greatest appreciation and respect for all they do for us, and no words can adequately express the sorrow we hold in our hearts for the great loss suffered when an officer is killed.

We honor these fallen heroes not just because of how they died, but also because of how they lived.

As a community, we hold a special reverence for those who choose to wear the uniform, those who choose to devote their lives serving their community. They are the thin blue line shielding law abiding citizens against society's criminal element, and for a nation based on the rule of law, they are our strongest and best bulwark against the forces of chaos that, left unchecked, would quickly engulf us – as the daily news reminds us.

To the family members of our fallen officers I extend to you the deep and heartfelt sympathy of all our citizens for your great loss.

You honor us with your presence, and on behalf of a grateful community, I thank you for their dedicated service.

In recognition of Peace Officers Memorial Day I have a proclamation I'd like to read and present to Chief Goldsmith, so Chief if you'd come up . . .

(Mayor read and presented Proclamation)